Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 152073 TOSEC 070046
ORIGIN SS-05

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DRAFTED BY S/S:DANDERSON:JLH
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----------075543 151511Z /40
O 151427Z JUN 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152073 TOSEC 070046

EXDIS KOOLAID/TARNOFF FROM ANDERSON

E.O. 11652:GDS

QTAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE -- CONGRESSIONAL TACTICS

1. WE ASKED DOUG BENNET, PER YOUR REQUEST, TO LOOK INTO THE IDEA OF THE LEADERSHIP'S PUTTING TOGETHER A HUNDRED OR SO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WHO WOULD SIGN A PETITION IN FAVOR OF INCREASING THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS REPORTED BY THE FULL COMMITTEE. THIS IDEA, TO HAVE EFFECT, WOULD HAVE TO RESULT IN A FLOOR AMENDMENT.

2. BECKEL, GODLEY (FROM TREASURY) AND DOUG MET WITH CONGRESSMAN JIM WRIGHT ON JUNE 14 TO LAY OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A DECOY RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENT. WRIGHT SAID "I HONESTLY BELIEVE WE WOULD BE SO INGLORIOUSLY DEFEATED THAT THE HOUSE WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CUT MORE." WRIGHT IS IN A THOROUGHLY SOUR MOOD BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S THREAT TO VETO HIS CHERISHED PUBLIC WORKS BILL.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 152073 TOSEC 070046

3. BECKEL, GODLEY AND DOUG SHARE THE VIEW THAT THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF GETTING EITHER LEADERSHIP SUPPORT OR A HUNDRED SIGNATURES IN FAVOR OF INCREASING THE COMMITTEE REPORTED AMOUNT. DOUG FEELS OUR BEST HOPE IS TO EITHER HOLD THE LINE OR CUT OUR LOSSES BY, FOR EXAMPLE,

INTRODUCING A SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT CUTTING 4 PERCENT IF IT

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

APPEARS THAT AN 8 PERCENT CUT IS LIKELY TO PASS. WRIGHT SHARES THIS ASSESSMENT.

4. ANDY YOUNG. YOU ASKED WHAT ANDY SAID IN NEW ORLEANS LAST SUNDAY. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM UPI WHICH ANDY CONFIRMS SUBSTANTIALLY REFLECTS WHAT HE SAID. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS INTEREST IN THE MATTER AND WE HAVE TAKEN NO QUESTIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT. ONLY UPI APPEARED TO CARRY THE STORY.

BEGIN QUOTE: ANGOLANS TELL HIM THE MILITARY HELP THEY RECEIVE FROM CUBA CAN BE COMPARED TO THE FRENCH AID THE COLONISTS RECEIVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THEY SAY TO ME, "YOU GOT YOUR GUNS FROM THE FRENCH, BUT YOU DIDN'T BECOME FRENCHMEN," YOUNG SAID. "THE PEOPLE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA ARE NOT FIGHTING TO TRADE CAPITALIST MASTERS FOR COMMUNIST MASTERS. THEY ARE INDEED FIGHTING TO DETERMIETHEIR OWN DESTINY." END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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20 Mar 2014
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